

5/5/08 - Monday, May 5, 2008

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Meeting of May 5, 2008

Members Present: Jenny Ebert, Ken Fulgione, Katrinka Bourne, Bob Von Haden

Members absent: Ken Ziehr, Sue Nelson, John Mann

Minutes. The minutes of the April 7, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

The meeting was held at the Chippewa Valley Museum.

1. Update on CLG Grant Project. Pat Ivory updated the Commission on the status of the City's CLG grant project. Projects include: the preparation of National Register nominations for the Roosevelt Avenue District, and 302 West Grand Avenue and the preparation of a walking tour brochure for the historic marker program. Pat noted that Eric Wheeler, the consultant for the grant project was in Eau Claire during the month of April and has been working on the three projects. The Commission discussed the brochure project and questioned whether the six plaques erected by the Paul Bunyan Camp within Carson Park could be added to the brochure. Pat indicated that he would discuss this with Bob Schneider from the Paul Bunyan Camp and also discuss this with Eric Wheeler.

2. Update on Landmark Activities and Properties.

A. Landmarks House Tours. Ken Fulgione questioned whether the Commission would be interested in touring various landmark properties as part of their regular monthly meetings. Commission members noted that they had toured some properties in the past and found the tours very beneficial. Ken indicated that he would let Pat know if a tour could be arranged for one of the upcoming meetings.

B. Preservation Month Activities. Pat Ivory updated the Commission regarding the bus tour held on May 4th in conjunction with Preservation Month. At the previous meeting, the Commission discussed the possibility of sponsoring a bus tour of historic areas and properties in Eau Claire later in the month of May, but since the previous meeting staff found out that Dick Feeney and the Chippewa Valley Museum had already planned such a bus trip for May 4th. In discussing this with the Chippewa Valley Museum, the Museum indicated that the Commission could be a co-sponsor of the May 4th bus tour in lieu of scheduling a second tour two weeks later. Jenny noted that the bus tour was well attended and that the Commission provided refreshments for those attending at the end of the tour.

C. Landmarks Presentation at Neighborhood Meeting. Pat noted that he had made the Landmarks presentation at the Third Ward and Randall Park Neighborhood Association joint meeting on April 17th. The presentation provided an overview of the City's Landmarks program and was well attended.

D. Third Ward District Informational Meeting. The Commission discussed that they still needed to schedule a meeting with property owners within the Third Ward Historic Landmark District that had opted out of their designation back in 1992. The purpose of the meeting is to determine if any property owners would be interested in having their property added back into the district. Pat noted that he would consult with Jenny Ebert about scheduling a date for the meeting.

E. Update on 1406, 1408 and 1500 State Street. The Commission discussed the status of 1406, 1408 and 1500 State Street. Pat noted that the work on the north entrance to 1408 would be completed within the next few weeks. It was noted that the owners of 1406 State Street had applied for a conditional use permit to convert this property into a duplex. This will be considered by the Plan Commission in May.

In regards to 1500 State Street, the Commission was informed that the owners of the property were considering a proposal to divide the parcel into two parcels. If approved, they would propose to construct a duplex to the north of the Buffington House. Pat noted that the Buffington House is both an individual landmark property and a pivotal property within the Third Ward Historic Landmark District. Criteria that the Commission would review if such a request were submitted are included in the Landmarks ordinance and in the Third Ward Historic Landmark District Plan.

F. Landmark Designation Eligibility. Bob Von Haden informed the Commission that he had been contacted by a person interested in having the Commission research two buildings as to whether they may be eligible for local landmark designation. The two buildings include, a building located in Rod and Gun Park and one in Lakeview Cemetery. Pat indicated that this request would be forwarded to the Commission's architect and historian for an initial review and then be brought back to the Commission for discussion.

The Commission adjourned the meeting to tour the neighborhood exhibit at the Chippewa Valley Museum. The tour was led by Susan McLeod, Director of the Chippewa Valley Museum.